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W. J. Lemke, Editor

FLASHBACK

published occasionally by the
Washington County Historical Society
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Vol. V, No. 1

Whole Number 25

February 1955

Annual Dinner Meeting

The annual dinner meeting of the WCHS was held Jan. 11 in the Washington Hotel, Fayetteville. As customary, everyone who attended was given an opportunity to relate a bit of history or indulge in reminiscences. Some interesting anecdotes were told. W.J. Lemke was toastmaster and introduced the members of the Board of Directors who were present: Miss Grace Albright, Mrs. Lessie Stringfellow Read, Dr. H. E. Buchanan, R. R. Logan, Dr. Fount Richardson, F. S. Root and Ralph Shreve. Each director spoke briefly.

Among the members who related bits of Washington County history were O. E. Williams, Mrs. Gertrude Miles, H. O. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bellis, Mrs. Daisy Young Holcomb, Dr. Will Mock, Mrs. Goodall, D. D. Deaver and F. P. Rose.

Tom Feathers, secretary-treasurer, reported a membership of 254 and a balance of \$150 in the treasury. Two changes in the society's constitution were approved. One change created the office of Editor of the Society's publications; and the other limited the number of Directors and staggered their terms. Ralph Shreve of the Nominating Committee submitted a slate of officers for 1955, as follows: President, Dr. Fount Richardson; secretary-treasurer, Tom Feathers; Editor of publications, W. J. Lemke. The report was adopted and the officers declared elected.

Distinguished Citizen Award

Two hundred friends of Rev. William Sherman gathered in Wesley Hall Sunday afternoon, December 5, to witness the presentation of Our Society's "Distinguished Citizen" citation to this veteran Methodist minister. Speaker for the occasion was an old friend and ministerial colleague of Rev. Sherman -- the Rev. Lynn Wade of Charleston, Ark. Reverend Wade told of the honoree's 68 years of service in the Methodist ministry and related several incidents from Rev. Sherman's long career as local preacher and presiding elder. The "Distinguished Citizen" certificate was presented to Rev. Sherman by W.J. Lemke, president of the historical society. Rev. Sherman responded briefly. Following the formal program, the Business and Professional Women's Sunday School class, of which Rev. Sherman is teacher and Mrs. I. R. Hill is president, served refreshments.

Rev. Sherman observed his 85th birthday on Christmas Eve. He is a native of Our County (Elm Springs); was licensed to preach in 1886 in the Grandview Church near Greathouse Springs; served as pastor for 31 years, his principal charges being Jonesboro, Russellville, Fort Smith, and Fayetteville. He was Presiding Elder for 21 years, serving the Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Conway, Helena, and Paragould districts. After his retirement from the active ministry in 1941, he continued to serve as supply pastor for several Washington County churches.

Jan. 22, 1959. Lib. membership

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News Notes

Through the courtesy of F. P. Rose of Rogers, our Society now has a copy of "The Genealogy of the Sater, Dyer, McColloch Families", compiled by Clem McColloch at Cane Hill in June 1905.

-WCHS-

The WCHS directors met Dec. 14 and discussed 1.) the annual dinner meeting; 2.) changes in the constitution to provide for an editor and additional vice-presidents; 3.) the Society's publications. Mrs. Read reported \$153 in the Dinsmore marker fund. Secretary Feathers gave a financial report and announced the discovery of the J.P. Neal records. These are scheduled for publication at an early date.

-WCHS-

The Pulaski County Historical Review has begun publication of "Pulaski County Marriages" -- always a valuable service. The December issue of the Review gives the 1838 and 1839 marriages. Other lists are to follow. Outstanding in the December number is an article about Jesse Brown, pioneer Little Rock school teacher (1823).

-WCHS-

On a recent drive to Fall Creek (formerly Strickler), Tom Feathers and W.J. Lemke stopped at the home of W.S. Crawley and learned that Mr. Crawley's father was the pioneer potter of that section. We learned that there were two kilns on the Crawley place in the old days. The remains of the kilns are still visible. Also, we inspected a well-preserved jar made on the site a hundred years ago.

-WCHS-

A copy of the May 1954 issue of FLASHBACK, containing the first Sheriff's Census of Washington County, found its way to Lewis E. Alexander of Uvalde, Texas -- a great-grandson of Samuel Alexander, one of the first settlers in what is now Washington County. Mr. Lewis Alexander has taken out a membership in our Society. He has in his possession family letters and documents dating back to 1827. These should be the earliest recorded history of Our County -- unless the descendants of the Simpsons or the Shannons can produce earlier records.

-WCHS-

The November 1954 issue of the Arkansas Valley Historical Papers, published at Russellville by G. R. Turrentine, contains an excellent history of the Henry family, first members of which came to Pope County in 1856. This number also carries a list of "Early Pope County Marriages" - 1830-1836. FLASHBACK readers will be interested to know that the first marriage recorded in Pope County by a minister of the gospel was performed by the Rev. Andrew Buchanan. On June 23, 1830, he married Milus T. Scott and Celia Garner. Four earlier Pope County marriages were performed by Justices of the Peace.

-WCHS-

A visit by Jack Greathouse and W.J. Lemke to the home of Allen Davis on Route 2, Fayetteville, resulted in the discovery of some historically valuable letters, including two letters written by Hiram Davis, later Washington County Judge, while on the Gold Rush to California in 1849. These letters give much information about the Washington and Benton County company that made the trek to California.

-WCHS-

The Society's collection of relics has acquired a badge worn at the Confederate Reunion in Fayetteville on Sept. 3 and 4, 1889. The souvenir badge is from the collection of the late Miss Sue Walker.

-WCHS-

Our Visit to Cincinnati

The Washington County Historical Society's pilgrimage to Cincinnati in November attracted 76 visitors to one of Our County's romantic spots. Our meeting was held in the Community Hall, with Secretary Tom Feathers presiding. Several old-timers had brought old photographs and documents, which were passed around. Tiff Thomason, oldest Cincinnati-born resident, related interesting facts about the old days. He told of being present when Ned Christie robbed Moore's Store in Cincinnati -- one of that outlaw's many misdeeds that finally got him killed by a posse. Mr. Thomason also described Zeke Proctor, another well-known early-day character on the Border who was a frequent visitor in Cincinnati. It was also related that Cincinnati mothers used Zeke's name to scare their young-uns into behaving.

An interesting feature of the program was Mrs. Agnes Gilbreath's reminiscences. She showed a photograph of the Oates Wagon Factory at Cincinnati and gave some information about James Oates. She also told of some of the early doctors of the community. Following are some passages from Mrs. Gilbreath's talk:

"Besides making wagons, hacks, buggies and farming tools, the James Oates factory supplied coffins and caskets for a very large territory on both sides of the Cherokee line, including the cemeteries at Rhea, Old Union, Weddington, Starr Hill, Sugar Hill, Ganderville, Gibson, Harrell, West, Baptist Mission, and numbers of private family burial plots. Hundreds of the dear ones of past generations sleep in caskets made by the Little Englishman, James Oates, who came to Arkansas because his young wife and little girl were buried in Old Union. The sturdy and ornamental iron fence that surrounds their graves, made by Mr. Oates himself, testifies to his devotion to their memory.

"Mr. Oates first went into business in Sedalia, Mo., shortly after the war. There he met, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Shields, a daughter of Capt. Charles Severs of Cincinnati, Ark., who was a sister of Mrs. Shields. After a short courtship they were married and lived in Sedalia until the death of the young wife and little daughter Ruth. Captain Severs brought them to Old Union at Cincinnati for burial.

"Soon Mr. Oates moved to Cincinnati and brought George Pool, his partner, with him and set about building up a business that was very successful for many years. Mr. Oates bought some of his supplies in St. Louis and went there two or three times a year to get them. A large part was ordered from New Orleans and brought up the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers to Fort Smith or Fort Gibson. Heavy log wagons met the boats and it depended on the season as to which landing could be used -- high water or low, on the Arkansas River.

"I remember people saying that when the College was built, it took six mules to pull the bell up the hills. Mr. Oates was Cincinnati's most energetic citizen, kept a crew of men busy, and helped with every worthwhile undertaking.

"At one time the Cincinnati school was among the best. Prof. Tom Welch (1876-77), a brother of Dr. Welch, taught here, as did Capt. Jim Bates, Jno. Mitchell, Prof. Stuckey, Prof. Busey, to name a few. Among the students at one time was Will Rogers from near Claremore, Okla.

"Dr. Lacy lived in Cincinnati till about 1880 when he moved with his family to Santa Ana, California. Dr. Powell came from Kentucky about 1860. His daughters were Mrs. Jno. Cox and Mrs. Wm. Rhea. One son was Joe Powell; the others I do not know. Dr. Yates' wife came from Cane Hill about 1880. Dr. Webster came a few years later; his wife was Miss Jo Green, aunt of P. R. Green of Fayetteville. Dr. J. F. Gullledge came in 1889 from Tennessee, just out of the Louisville Medical College. He and his wife, the former Miss Jennie Spence, are now living in Siloam Springs. They stayed in Cincinnati till 1909. Dr. James Pittman then took over until his death in 1918 or 1919. Dr. Roberson came then and served as the community's doctor until his death.

"Cincinnati once had six general merchandise stores, two drugstores, two groceries, one hardware store, three fine flour mills, three doctors, one newspaper, two churches, Masonic and Odd Fellow lodges, one photographer, one jeweler, one barber, two harness makers, one feed store, a millinery shop. The last two were located in the building that was always called the "Music Room", having been built on Dr. Lacy's corner for the use of G. Dolgaruki and his band."

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Following the meeting in the Community Hall, I visited the Masonic Lodge Hall upstairs, the home of Cincinnati Lodge No. 102. On the wall is the original parchment charter, dated Nov. 8, 1856. The charter members were George Gibson, R. May, J. R. Rutherford, D. B. Mason, J. R. Parks, W. H. Rhea, Moses Alberty, and C. J. Severs. The charter was lost during the Civil War and the Grand Lodge replaced it on May 3, 1866. This second charter is signed by E. H. English, grand master; W. D. Blocher, grand secretary; and J. Ash, grand treasurer. However, the original charter was returned after the War, so Cincinnati Lodge No. 102, F&AM, now has both charters framed on the walls of its Lodge Hall. I told Mr. Gilbreath, Master of the Lodge, that the Masons of Cincinnati should begin planning for a centennial celebration in November, 1956. I hope to be present when this old lodge -- probably the only one in Arkansas possessing two charters -- celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Most of the folks who attended our meeting in the Cincinnati Community Hall also went with us to the Union Cemetery, where are buried members of the Parks, Marquess, Polson, Thomason, and other pioneer families. Because Cincinnati is so rich in historic lore, Our Society plans another visit there during 1955. We expect to include Rhea's Mill and Viney Grove on the next pilgrimage.

-- W. J. Lemke

Information Wanted

Anyone knowing from what state any of the following enlisted in the Confederate army, or other facts about his service, is asked to contact Miss Gallaway, 620 W. Maple St., Fayetteville, Ark.

Charles Booger, died 1910

D. B. Haney, died 1918

Whitson B. Taylor, died 1900

Frank White, died 1900

This information is desired for the records of the Confederate Cemetery.

Two New Numbers in Our Bulletin Series

Our Society has just published two new booklets in the Bulletin Series. They are No. 9 - "Early Settlers of Cane Hill" by Ellen Earle Richardson, and No. 10 - "The Mecklin Letters", written by Robert W. Mecklin at Mt. Comfort in 1863-64. Only 100 copies of each title have been printed, so we would advise our members who wish copies to get them at once. They are \$1 each (25 cents additional if by mail) and may be secured from Tom Feathers, secretary, at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. Center St., Fayetteville (Post office box 225).

Mrs. Richardson's account of early Cane Hill families is authoritative and interesting. Here are some sample paragraphs from her 72-page manuscript:

"Jemima was the one who eloped from the Trousdale home the night that Sarah Jane Trousdale married young White McClellan, to marry Bob Moore, who was from Pennsylvania. They lived before the war at Clyde, but when their home was burned by Federal soldiers, they bought the lot and built the house where Miss Kate lives now. Their daughter Callie (Mrs. Frank Braly) remembers that there was much fighting at the time their house was burned and there were many dead and wounded around the house. A Colonel Jewell died there, a Federal officer from Kansas. At one time there were six coffins on their front porch."

"The oldest part of the Parks house was built on the hill near where stands the house built by Jim Mitchell, the one that Ned Stevens lived in for years, and was bought by Mr. Parks and moved across the road to the site close by the spring. Twelve oxen were hitched to it and it took two days to move it over to where it was to rest on its new foundation. Uncle Jimmie Buchanan often came over to watch and would sit in a rocking chair in the house as it moved along. When the work was finished the Parks family gave a supper for all who had helped."

"Adelaide Dyer, like her sister Emily, married a widower. Her husband was Tandy Kidd, one of the richest men of his day. The well-to-do Mr. Kidd was in the habit of burying his money, which fact was known to other people. Many and various were the tales told about the hiding places of this gold. Even as late as the 1880's, there were rumors of digging being done at night somewhere about the old Kidd homestead. In spite of all the tales, the truth seems to be that he kept his money in the house, buried under a hearth-stone. Mr. Kidd was killed at a wheat threshing in a dispute over wheat."

"Like his brother Jimmie, Andrew Crawford married a Buchanan (Minerva), the only one of her family of Buchanans to come to Arkansas, though she was related to all the others. Minerva was killed by a negro woman named Cal, who then set fire to the house. A passer-by saw the fire, broke into the house, found the 6-months-old baby alive and unhurt, and found that Minerva had been killed with an axe. This baby boy Robert went to South Dakota and lived at Spearfish. Andrew's second wife was Rachel Tinnon. Their daughter Lucy married Alex Cruse, and they and their children lived not far from the White Church. Andrew, a Confederate soldier, was killed in battle at Corinth, Miss."

No.10 - The Mecklin Letters

"The Mecklin Letters" (No. 10 in the Bulletin Series of the Washington County Historical Society) were written by the founder of Ozark Institute while he and his family were living at Mt. Comfort during the violent years of 1863-64. They give a vivid description of civilian life in Washington County during the war when Federal troops were occupying Fayetteville and bushwhackers roamed the countryside. By way of introducing our Bulletin No. 10, "The Mecklin Letters", here is part of the "Foreword" from the booklet:

"To appreciate the Mecklin letters and to properly place them in their historical setting, it is necessary to know the dramatis personae of the action that they narrate. The Mecklin household consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Mecklin, their widowed daughter Mary E. and her three children, and the Mecklins' younger daughter Lou.

"Robert W. Mecklin, the writer of these letters, was born in South Carolina, July 31, 1795. He attended college in Athens, Georgia, then moved to Kentucky where he married Louisa Ann Anderson in 1829. They came to Arkansas in 1833. Mecklin taught briefly in Little Rock, then took charge of the Fayetteville Female Academy in the latter part of 1835. He then taught school in the church at Mt. Comfort, where he opened his noted school, Ozark Institute, on May 19, 1845. He had purchased the unfinished building of Far West Academy and had completed the brick building. He was elected state senator in 1860. He died at his home in Mt. Comfort on April 25, 1871.

"Mrs. Mecklin was Louisa Ann Anderson, one of three daughters of Hugh A. Anderson of Kentucky who had brought his family to Benton County, Arkansas, in 1836. Mrs. Mecklin's sisters, both mentioned frequently in these letters, were Katherine Anderson (Mrs. A. W.) Dinsmore -- she was the "Aunt Kate" to whom the letters were addressed; and Elizabeth Anderson (Mrs. Hiram) Davis, who is referred to in these letters as "Sister E."

"The 'Mary E.' of Robert Mecklin's letters was his daughter, Mary Elizabeth. She was the widow of William Fullbright, who was killed while in the Confederate service, leaving her with three small children. She died shortly after the war and the Mecklins kept the children during their lifetime. "Lou", mentioned frequently in these letters, was the Mecklins' younger daughter, Louisa.

"Mrs. Mecklin's sister Elizabeth (Mrs. Hiram Davis) lived about two miles from Mt. Comfort and had a household of her own. She had two little children at home, two sons in the Southern army (one was a son by her first marriage to Albert Peel), and a husband and one son "In the South" (as refugees). Also, she had a Negro servant named Delia. Mrs. Mecklin visited her sister, Mrs. Davis, frequently, riding her 'pony' from Mt. Comfort to the Davis home.

"The Mecklins lived in a house on the campus of Ozark Institute at Mt. Comfort, three miles northwest of Fayetteville. The 2-story brick school building that Robert Mecklin had purchased and completed in 1845 was still standing and was occupied in 1863 by a family with Union sympathies. Neither the brick Institute building nor the Mecklin home were destroyed during the war. Although Robert Mecklin himself was too old to resume teaching after hostilities ceased, Ozark Institute did carry on after its founder's death in 1871."

Captain Evans' Gold Seekers

by Rowena Gallaway

During the early spring of 1849 the "Fayetteville Gold Company" enrolled 103 persons: 87 from Washington County; 10 from Benton County; 4 from Madison County; and 2 from Tennessee. In preparation for their overland journey to California, most of these emigrants equipped themselves with sundries from pilot bread to mattocks at the then prosperous little town of Fayetteville.

The ox-drawn wagon used by the Freyschlag brothers on that gold trek was made by the pioneer Peter VanWinkle at his shop located northwest of town -- on the site of Judge J.E.Dowell's present home. Along with Christian, Edward and Herman Freyschlag, went their sisters Barbara and Merina. (A third lady in the company was Mrs. Carolina Hail, who accompanied her husband Isaac.) Herman Freyschlag taught dancing and Miss Hermina Freyschlag art and music at Miss Sawyer's Seminary in Fayetteville. Local tradition says that the Misses Freyschlag walked all the way to California. They probably did walk often: five passengers was the limit prescribed for even the four-yoke wagons in that caravan. Among the descendants of Edward Freyschlag now living in or near Fayetteville are Mrs. Hugh Hayes, Mrs. J. E. Dowell, Mrs. Edwin O'Kelly, and Herman Hayes.

The Northwest Arkansas 49-ers started from Fayetteville on Monday, April 16. (It is recorded that on the day John VanHoose and others of the number living on the middle fork of White River left home, it snowed.) A week later found them in the Cherokee Nation at Sulphur Springs on Grand River. There they were joined by a group of Cherokee. A company was organized and the following officers elected: Captain Lewis Evans; 1st Lieut. Thomas Tyner; 2nd Lieut. Peter Mankins -- all of Washington County -- Secretary, James S. Vann; and Commissary Sergeant, Martin Schrimsher, both of the Cherokee Nation. Martin Mathew Schrimsher did not find in California adequate compensation for his well-performed duties on that long trip. He spent seven months in the gold country. Mr. Schrimsher died in the year 1865, hence he never knew his grandson, the beloved Will Rogers, whose mother was the former Miss Mary A. Schrimsher.

That company of gold seekers chose for leader a man who had been the first sheriff of Washington County (1828-1836) and one of the commissioners who located the town of Fayetteville. In 1849, Lewis Evans was a merchant at the hamlet that still bears his name, Evansville. His son Alonzo accompanied him to California.

On the eve of their departure for the West, Evans' band held a religious service. There was, by the way, at least one preacher in their number, the Rev. William ("Horse") Wilson. Augmented by a few more whites and about 15 Cherokee, and five slaves of the latter, an estimated 130 persons left the vicinity of the present Salina, Oklahoma, on Monday, April 23. During the slow progress over boggy roads, the ingenious Rankin Pyeatt of Cane Hill busied himself making a contraption which, fastened to the rear wheel of his wagon, registered the miles for the plodding travelers.

When finally Captain Evans' train reached the Santa Fe Trail, they set up a large stone marked: "TO FAYETTEVILLE, ARK. 300 MILES -- CAPT. EVANS' CAL. COM'Y, MAY 14, 1849." For months that "Arkansas monument" was to serve as a sort of postal station for migrating 49-ers from many parts of the country. Hiram Davis addressed to the St. Louis Republican an account of their journey to date. He enclosed this letter in a pasteboard and oilcloth and secured it to a stake along with a note directing whoever could to deliver it. Davis's communitation appeared in the Daily Missouri Republican, July 4, 1849, and was widely reprinted for the information of the "folks back home." "A. Williamson of Fayetteville", westward bound from Independence, added a letter of his own to that forwarded by Judge Davis.

Hiram Anderson Davis, a native of Missouri, was a law student and later partner of Judge David Walker. At the time of his death in 1879 he was serving a second term as county judge. Dr. Anderson Nettleship of Little Rock is his great-grandson. Mrs. Bess A. Nettleship and Allen Davis of Johnson Road, Fayetteville, reside on the site of the homestead of their grandfather, Judge Hiram A. Davis. Judge Davis was for three years treasurer of the Arkansas Industrial University. Another well-known lawyer in Evans' company was District Judge James M. Hoge of Bentonville. He had formerly lived in Fayetteville, where his wife, it is said, taught the first school in that village. Judge Hoge's witty remarks always enlivened the general conversation on that tedious 1849 journey. In the evening the campers indulged in varied recreation, with story-telling a popular pastime. Then there was singing -- From Newton's old hymn, "How Tedious and Tasteless the Hours" to "Take Yo' Time, Miss Lucy" -- and much fiddle-playing.

When, nearly one month after leaving home, the Arkansas-Cherokee travelers entered the historic Santa Fe Trail, they had felt a new enthusiasm for their venture. The going, too, was easier and the white topped wagons creaked steadily along. But ease of mind and buoyancy of spirit were not to last. From time to time Captain Evans' men disagreed among themselves, usually about their route. Many were impatient at any delay; others lost their zest for the enterprise. This company, we should note, started to California without the guidance or protection of any military escort such as accompanied other units of gold seekers, like the contingent from Helena that Evans' wagon train met on the way westward. Dissensions persisted until, near Pueblo, the company broke up and a few men even returned home.

In those times when any overland travel west of the Continental Divide was difficult, the Arkansans as well as their Cherokee friends found the last third of their journey arduous and not wanting in tragedy. James Garvin lost his life. He was ill and companions were taking him across the Green River on a raft made of skins. The raft, already heavily loaded, turned over and Garvin was drowned. Some of the emigrants sold their wagons and bought pack animals at exorbitant prices.

A pleasant break in the journey was a short stay at Salt Lake City. There some of the strangers were invited to a big dinner attended by about 8,000 persons. This was part of a celebration which the Mormons were holding on the second anniversary of their coming to that valley. From Salt Lake some of the gold seekers pursued a southerly route to the Sacramento; others chose a shorter but more hazardous passage. A few of Evans' men perished from cold and hunger; others were rescued by government relief parties.

By early November probably half of the original Fayetteville company had reached their destination and were hunting crumbs of gold in panfuls of gravel or digging for the precious metal. The Cherokee Joseph H. Sturdivant on November 20 wrote home that he, Evans, and William Shores (of Washington County) were then mining near the boom town of Sacramento. Sturdivant promised to send his wife \$800 by Hiram Davis when the latter returned home in February. A trunk and the buffalo robe that Sturdivant previously requested Thomas Tyner to deliver to Mrs. Sturdivant never reached her, for Tyner was killed by Indians.

Nathan Lewis and Nathan Tharp of Washington County are said to have died enroute west, as did Oscar Bean of Fayetteville. James Carnahan, an uncle of W.P. Carnahan of Rhea's Mill, died soon after reaching California. The fate of Sam Latta and Will Gray from Evansville is not known. The latter was a maternal uncle of Mrs. J.R. Wall. Two Cane Hill men perished on that gold quest: Henry Porter Pyeatt drowned in the American River; his nephew, Andrew Pyeatt, died on shipboard coming home and was buried (January 9, 1851) in the Gulf of Mexico. That young man's father, John Rankin Pyeatt, got back safe -- and lived to be past 90. Two of his grandsons, J.H. and Herbert R. Pyeatt, currently reside at Cane Hill. Rankin Pyeatt had two rings made from gold nuggets that he brought home: one ring for his wife, the other for his daughter Mary, later Mrs. W.P. Patterson.

A future governor of Arkansas, Isaac Murphy, came back from California avowedly poorer than when he went. In contrast, Peter Mankin, after acquiring, losing, and retrieving "a fortune", brought \$3,750 with him when he returned home -- via Cape Horn. The intrepid Mankin, a wagon leader in Evans' train, proved very helpful in every emergency.

J. H. McRoy of Fayetteville also brought some gold home -- at least enough to buy a tract of land on which in time he built his wagon and carriage shop and his residence. "Jack" boarded at the Coats home, and members of that family would sometimes hear the returned 49er upstairs counting his gold nuggets. Many years later McRoy married Miss Julia Coats. Their son, the late W.M. ("Mack") McRoy, lived to be one of Fayetteville's veteran business men.

Mrs. J. W. Taylor of Prairie Grove is a niece of two of Evans' gold seekers: Andrew E. and J. Thompson ("Thomps") Edmiston. These men were great uncles of Mrs. E.M. Murphy and of J. D. Edmiston of Fayetteville. Along with the Edmiston brothers went the Devin brothers, Matthew A. and James. Henry Carnahan, the postmaster of Prairie Grove, is a grandson of the latter. Another Washington County member of the Evans company was Eydie Cosby, grandfather of Mrs. Althea Elliot of Baldwin and of Virgil A. Cosby of Fayetteville.

Two Madison County 49-ers who went with Evans were Hiram A. and John C. Sumner. Some present-day descendants of the former are Mrs. Dave Anderson and Bruce Brashears of Huntsville and Mrs. James Watts of Springdale. Col. Jerome Thompson of Little Rock is Hiram Sumner's great-grandson, as are Hugh and Frank Suttle of Fayetteville.

Among the members of the Fayetteville Gold Company who settled in the West were Christian Freyschlag, Matt Devin, "Thomps" Edmiston and John Carnahan.

I REMEMBER

I am glad to know that our Society will place a marker on Col. Hugh Dinsmore's grave. You may be interested in the following story. During the Smith-Hoover campaign, my father, a life-long Democrat and Confederate soldier, supported the Republican nominee, Mr. Hoover. He stumped the county and carried it by some 800 votes for Hoover. This was a rather bitter campaign. Colonel Dinsmore supported Al Smith.

Shortly after the election, Colonel Dinsmore was living in a furnished upstairs room in the home of Mrs. Pinkerton on Block street. My wife and I had an apartment next door in the home of Mrs. Crenshaw. One cold evening I saw the old Colonel trying to carry some wood upstairs for his heating stove. I went over and carried the wood upstairs for him. The old gentleman was a sick man at that time. I sat down and visited with him for a while. During the course of our conversation he remarked, "Jack, does Ben (my father) know that I am sick? Will you tell him that I forgive him for supporting Hoover and would appreciate it if he will come to see me?" I assured him that my father did not know of his illness or he would have surely been to see him.

The next day I notified my father and he called on Mr. Dinsmore that day. It was very gratifying to me to see these two old gentlemen fall into each others arms and resume a great friendship which had to some extent been disrupted by the bitterness of the recent political campaign.

-- Jack Greathouse

When I was quite young, living in Fayetteville, Mr. York, a Deputy U.S. Marshall, lived next door to us and kept us informed of the attempt to capture Ned Christie, the outlaw. Mr. York told us that Christie had barricaded himself in a stoutly-built log house which was equipped with loop holes on all sides. The siege of the place lasted for weeks, and the officers kept adding more to the detachment. They finally used a cannon, setting fire to the house. Christie came out shooting as he ran for the thicket near by. His accomplice, a younger fellow, was badly burned but was brought here alive.

I chanced to be down-town and saw a crowd gathering around an ordinary farm wagon which was driven in a livery stable, which was located on the site where the Oklahoma Tire Co. is now. In the wagon on some hay lay the body of a tall handsome Indian, rather young and a much more impressive person than the short fat Proctor. Alongside of Christie lay not less than a half dozen fine rifles with which he had defied his captors for weeks. Only two bullet holes were readily visible, both in the side of his neck, scarcely bleeding.

-- Earle Bates

In 1920 the first pavement was laid in Fayetteville, around the Square. A 6-inch base of Trinidad asphalt was used and after 34 years of service it is still good.

-- Ben Shreve

Will Brown, who is buried in the Mt. Comfort cemetery, was one of three Mt. Comfort boys killed in the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861.

The old home-made desk used by W.S. Crawley when he was postmaster at Strickler now reposes in the log barn at the home of his son, just north of the village.

Newly Discovered Letters of Sophia Sawyer

(Editor's Note: FLASHBACK takes pleasure in publishing several newly discovered letters written a hundred years ago by Miss Sophia Sawyer, founder and principal of the Fayetteville Female Seminary. The letters were addressed to Judge and Mrs. Hiram Davis and were made available to us by their grandchildren, Mrs. Nettleship and Mr. Allen Davis of Fayetteville.

Three of the letters were written by Miss Sawyer from Park Hill (Tahlequah), Cherokee Nation, where she spent the last summer of her life amid scenes of earlier and happier days. It will be recalled that she was a missionary school teacher with the Cherokees before she came to Fayetteville in 1839, after the Ridge-Boudinot murders, and opened her noted school.

The letters suggest that Miss Sawyer was not on particularly good terms with the woman who replaced her at the Female Seminary, Miss Lucretia Foster, and with the man whom Miss Foster married, Presley Smith Jr. The letters reveal her as a sick and embittered woman.

The Davises were old friends. Judge Davis had handled legal matters for her, as had David Walker, Jonas Tebbetts, and other influential Fayetteville citizens. We have been unable to identify the Isabella and Jane Walker mentioned in the letters, nor the Mr. Willis who threatened her with a lawsuit (Letter No. 1). "Robert Grayham" was the Rev. Robert Graham, president of Arkansas College. "Miss Daniels" was Mary T. Daniels, her long-time assistant in the Seminary. -- WJL)

--O--

Little Rock, Feb. 3rd, 1851, In my room.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis

My dear Friends

Why cannot we enjoy an enlightened ministry? Is it right for us to live as we do in this respect? So far as I can estimate the feelings & duty of parents, I think I should much rather go back to primitive simplicity in dress & living, & enjoy the regular preaching of the word, than live in splendor without it. You have a rising family -- a family which will soon be able to discriminate between truth & falsehood -- ignorance & intelligence. Will dollars & cents be laid up for them be better than fixed principle, than that knowledge they would gain from listening to the gospel from one, who need not be ashamed of his work? You reply, there are other sources of religious knowledge. True, but can a substitute be found? Is it not the appointed means of God? Can we reasonably hope for covenant blessings while we rest without an enlightened gospel ministry?

I have been led to these inquiries by seeing & feeling the effects of the gospel here. The subject yesterday, the necessity of the Spirit to preserve the Church & individuals Christians. A concise account of the rise & fall of Churches from Luther & Calvin to the present day, with encouragement to pray for the Spirit. A recital of what God has done for the Church since the beginning of the present century. Mrs. Davis, there is one thing we can do, that is collect religious knowledge, & on suitable occasions communicate it. Let us forget personal feeling & interest in feeling & doing for others.

I shall wait until I return, & have Judge Davis fill the skeleton of my will. All are strangers here & I find it hard to dispose of my little all when I wish to help so many, & see so much waste in the world.

My health seems good, yet feeble. Need excitement - am indeed an old woman here, where no calls to quicken my steps.

Here I am, my dear & long tried friends, upstairs writing while Mr. and Mrs. Greene are gone to the prayer meeting. The weather is cold and damp, that they advised that I should remain. I am quite willing to stay by the fire for it is cold here. Cold. Cold. I wish I could go farther south, stop sometime in Van Buren. I have received no letters here yet. Wish, but not anxiously, so hear from our prospects at home.

Now Mr. Davis listen. Mr. Willis is making a great noise in the country threatening me in the most decided & positive language with the law. Blames me for his failure with Miss Foster etc etc. I met a letter of this character at Van Buren. Then he Mr. Willis is showing Miss F's letters. Offered to show them to Mr. Wallace as he saw him on shore at Norristown etc. My friends tell me there is no danger. Mr. Greene says he will stop him when he sees him. He leaves tomorrow at ten o'clock in the Boat for Norristown. Mr. Gray came in this evening - goes in the morning. By him I send this letter. I will try to do all I can while here & come home better in health & manners. Love to all.

I am confidingly and affectionately yours, S. Sawyer

Tahlequah, C.N., August 4th, 1853

Mrs. Davis

My Dear friend

I was painfully surprised to learn by Miss Daniels, Isabella's determination to go to Van Buren at the very worst season of the year, especially that she was going with Flora & Andrew. I gave Is'a leave to visit Mrs. Ridge's on vacation. Should have provided her the means of coming here with Miss D----- but supposed it not convenient for her to be spared, as her quilt was not done etc etc, knowing your family affliction & being more than willing that Is'a should do all in her power to share the encreased labor of your household in consequence of this affliction.

After waiting here & carefully watching the indications of Providence I determined to put I--a & Jane Walker into Miss F's school, & return myself to your house for the coming Winter. A house, or even room, where I could keep house, I could not obtain & send Jane to school. Will you, my dear friends, have my room finished & fitted up comfortably for me before cold weather. Let the furniture engaged by received & a rag carpet be bought & put down. Mr. Sutton take the dimensions of the bedstead & purchase a good mattress. I must be made comfortable the last year or years of my life. I will try to interest Miss Daniels for me.

Let Isabella remain if decisions are made respecting her until I think further. Let her purchases be few until she has direction from me. The last letter I received from her & from Mrs. Davis all was well & content. Then I wrote what I was doing for her & Jane. Certainly we had no reason to think Mrs. Ward would employ her; but let no offense be given or hasty steps taken. I live for her & Jane. Love to her, if she is yet with you & tell her her best friend, S. Sawyer, was taking no measures for a future home which did not involve the best interest of her two children, I. & Jane Walker.

Love to all & gratitude to our numerous benefactors.

Very affectionately & confidingly yours

S. Sawyer

The Cincinnati Argus
by Tom Feathers

The Cincinnati Argus was published at Cincinnati, Washington County, in the late 1890's. A copy loaned to our Society is No. 15 of Volume 2 and is dated Thursday, May 26, 1898. On the editorial page is stated: "Published every Thursday by A. J. Edmiston & Son." The subscription price was \$1 per year and the paper was entered at the postoffice at Cincinnati as second-class matter. There is also on this page a directory of county and state officials.

In the "Church Column", Rev. R.W. Dowell was pastor of the Cumberland Church and Rev. W.T. Thompson was pastor of the M.E. Church, South. The Y.P.S.C.E. met every Sunday afternoon at the C.P. church, with the following officers: Otis Dodson, president; J.S. Tunnell, vice-president; Miss Kate Ellis, secretary; Mrs. Anne Dodson, treasurer.

The front page of the paper carries such articles as a continued story, "Light Out of Darkness" by John Strange Winter; "As We See Ourselves" (engrossed in our own affairs); a story about a stowaway from the Barbados; plans for a stable and carriage house; and under the heading, "Scientific Topics": "Wide-Tire Carriages", "Understanding Wet Land", "Chances of Marriage (according to age)", "Natural Color Photographs", "Patent Plate Lifters", "On Ball and Socket", "Death from Gas of a Cesspool", and "Plants To Check Bleeding of Wounds."

News items were sent to the Argus from Westville, Renic, Salem Springs, Baptist Mission, and Coon Creek.

The big story of the week is on page 3 of the 4-page paper and is headed: "Destruction in the Wind." "Washington County Visited by a Terrific Tornado" - "Great Damage Done." One Killed and Several Injured." The storm occurred on the Friday evening previous, between 6 and 7 p.m. Traveling in a northeasterly direction, the tornado entered Arkansas from the Indian Territory "near Tiff Harrell's" and extended through Elm Springs, Lowell and Mudtown before losing force.

"Family History" Discussed at November Meeting

"Family History" was the subject discussed at the meeting of the Washington County Historical Society in the First Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 28. Mrs. Janet Wilson Shreve explained the Society's method of gathering genealogical information. Several members of the Society showed family records and heirlooms, among which the photo albums of Miss Rachel Oliver and the Hindman family photographs of Mrs. Gertrude Miles attracted much attention. Among the members who took part in the informal program were Miss Grace Albright, Mrs. W.W. Vaught, Rollins Wilson, Mrs. L.L. Browne, Miss Irene Gallaway, Ralph Shreve, Miss Mary Droke, O.E. Williams, Mrs. E.A. Teter, Mrs. John Goodall, and Prof. and Mrs. Guy B. Massey.

To Speak in Conway and Russellville

W.J. Lemke, editor of FLASHBACK, will speak to the Community Forum at Conway Feb. 24 on the subject of Arkansas history. On Feb. 25 he will be at Russellville to address the Arkansas Valley Historical Society.

At the Female Seminary, Park Hill, August 6th, 1853

I received a letter last evening from Mr. P. Smith in reply to my application for Isabella & Jane Walker refusing to take them, so all my plans for the coming season are defeated. Will Mr. M---line rent -- to S. Sawyer, if she continues to be refused renting or board for her children in such houses as she is willing to place them in Fayetteville? I am unacquainted with the C--- grounds & houses. I must have a home some where or it does seem sometimes I shall find one in the grave. Where is Isabella? Do take care of her until I come. Tell her not to be discouraged. Jane Walker is now with her Mother at Baitie's Prairie. Has not had a bad name where she was received into school. The changing circumstances of the family were the satisfactory reasons she was not retained. Let us hear from you & your husband soon. Deal kindly but plainly & truly with me. The house here is now empty & I am kindly received & taken care of in Dr. Butler's family.

As ever truly yours in Christ, S. Sawyer

N.B. Any advice or suggestions will be kindly received & duly appreciated by S. Sawyer

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F.S., Cherokee Nation, Monday August 22, 1853

Mr. and Mrs. Davis My Dear Friends

I received a letter a few days since from Isabella twelve days from the date so you see here I sit weak & irresolute not knowing the situation of those dearer to me than life. I am satisfied that my friends were influenced by kind feelings in advising Isabella to go to Van Buren but had I been near would have made any sacrifice in my power to have saved her from the danger of sickness & season. The mercury here in the shade ranges from 90 to 100. Then that poison river at this season & the streets that literally burn your feet as you walk amidst their sands.

Then poor little Jane. I was obliged to send to her Mother sick after giving her pills. The dear sweet creature may never reach the arms of her sick Ma or trouble any parent by the bad example she gives their children to follow. It is enough the hand of Our Blessed Redeemer is in all this, who for our sakes became poor, suffering shame, poverty, hunger & thirst, from the Manger to the Cross without even alluding to, unless to warn his followers what to expect if they became his disciples.

It seems best as God has ordered events for me to return to your house if you will receive me & not try any more to keep house, that I might relieve my kind & generous friends of the burden of taking care of S. Sawyer. Little Jane, dear creature, must remain where she is, living or dead, until I return & see what I can do for her. Isabella was well & in fine spirits when she wrote. God preserve her life & fit for earth & heaven! Let me continue a wanderer & vagabond if my dear ones can be saved.

I shall return if able as soon as the weather is cooler & a suitable conveyance procured. Will you, my dear dear friends, be true & ready to receive the sick traveller? I am very kindly treated here - but not excitement sufficient to keep strength. When I can ride, shall be better. No calculation respecting my health. Hence the trial I must continue to be, to all connected with me.

Love to all friends & forgiveness to enemies if such a dying woman has any. As ever S. Sawyer

Mr. Cob & his wife just left. I was so glad to see them.

My Paternal Grandfather - Washington Wilson

By Annie Thomas Wager

(Editor's Note: By way of re-introducing Mrs. Wager -- she furnished the information for the article on "The Beginnings of Evergreen Cemetery" that appeared in FLASHBACK of September 1951. We are glad to welcome her back -- after a long siege of illness -- with her biographical sketches of her grandfather, Washington Wilson, and of her father, John Thomas. Washington Wilson was one of Fayetteville's first merchants (about 1829). Also, he was a charter member of Washington Lodge No. 1, F&AM, in 1835. John Thomas, in the 1840's, had his farm where the Frisco railroad now curves south across Dickson street. The Thomas family burying ground on that farm has developed into Evergreen Cemetery. -- We are grateful for the information that Mrs. Wager has given us. It is authentic material that could probably not be secured from any other source. -- WJL)

My grandfather, Washington Wilson, spent his young manhood in Albany, New York; I am not sure of his birthplace. He was married in Albany to a Miss Drysdale who was born in Scotland. They came to Fayetteville, Arkansas, at a very early date -- it must have been in the late 20's or early 30's (1828 or 1830). He was established in business long before the stage coach came there, as I recall my Aunt explaining the different events that happened when the first stagecoach arrived. The stagecoach line was managed by a Mr. Butterfield.

My grandfather had built a home on the corner of the Square and was conducting a prosperous dry goods business. He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge. He conducted the meeting of the Masonic Lodge the night before his death. He died suddenly of a heart attack but I do not have the record of the date. His wife had preceded him in death several years before. They are both buried on East Mountain in Fayetteville.

Born to this union were four daughters and three sons. Two of the sons are buried in the Confederate burial ground on East Mountain. One of these boys was named Drysdale and was only 14 years old when he volunteered for service in the Confederate army. His leg was shot off the second day that he was in the army and it was amputated by candle-light. He lived a few years, however, before he died. I am not sure of the other son's name but I think it was Malcolm.

One of the daughters, the oldest, was my mother, Harriet E. Wilson. Other daughters were Sarah (called Sally), and Helen (called Jimmy), and Melrose, the youngest. Harriet married John Thomas; Sarah was married to Henry Rieff, who was a Colonel in the Southern army and built and lived in a red brick home which was still standing and being used as a funeral home in Fayetteville when I visited there a few years ago. Colonel Rieff moved to Springdale and was postmaster there for a time. His wife and children (3 daughters and 2 sons) moved to St. Louis. Several of the family have died since then, but the last I heard of Ethel Rieff (Wooten) was as a school teacher in St. Louis up to just a few years ago.

Helen (or Jimmy) married Lieut. Harry Wilson and moved to St. Louis where she later died. Lieutenant Wilson was in the Northern army. After his wife's death in St. Louis he moved to Chicago where he died in the early 1890's, leaving the one remaining Wilson boy -- Eugene -- who came to Texas, married and had a family, and died some 20 years ago. The younger daughter Melrose also came to Texas, being single, and died several years ago and is buried in West Texas.

My grandfather, Washington Wilson, was a First Lieutenant in the Mexican War. I have his commission signed by President James K. Polk. I also have a very nice small picture of Grandfather -- it is in a small locket; also one of Aunt Helen (Jimmy* Wilson. I also have one of my mother with little sister Lucy on Mother's lap.

My Father - John Thomas

My father, John Thomas, was born in Kentucky, where his father died when he, John, was 3 years old. His mother (my grandmother) moved with him and his two older sisters to Marion County, Missouri, where the younger of his sisters (Mary Thomas) died. He later moved with his mother and older sister (Milissa Thomas) to Fayetteville, Arkansas. I am sorry I do not have the date, but he was quite young.

I remember hearing my father tell of attending school at Cane Hill, and he spoke so often of the beautiful girls there. When the Mexican War came, he volunteered for service and did serve in that war. When he came back, his mother had died. She was visiting in the southern part of the state and was buried there, leaving John and his sister Milissa. After Milissa's death, he was the only member of his family that he knew of. Soon after he returned from the Mexican War, and just before his sister's death, he was married to my mother -- Harriet E. Wilson -- on March 5, 1849.

He later sold his farm there in Fayetteville and moved to the country adjoining the Jack farm, of the noted Jack Springs, and adjoining the noted Hanshaw Spring farm. My father worked very hard to improve his farm and he gave a portion of land for a school building. He built the school building, a neat frame structure, which was known for years as the Thomas school house. Several years after my father sold the farm, a small railroad was built in there and the name changed to Elam (or some such name)* but the railroad soon failed and moved out, and friends told me that the old-timers still called it the Thomas school house. My early remembrance of my father was his serving on the school board. It is my impression that he continued to serve on the board as long as we lived there. Another thing he did -- he was forever serving on the jury.

After my mother's death, my father hardly knew what to do with four small children (two boys and two girls). He had older children (boys) who had moved from home. A dear old lady who was a good friend of my mother said she would not leave us. She was Mrs. Agnew who lived at Elm Springs. She begged to take all four of us younger ones, so my father loaded bedding and groceries to last for months and moved us to her home. We were just across the street from Dr. Steel's store in Elm

* probably Wyman

Springs and very close to the noted big Elm Spring. Although I was only 4½ years old, I carried many small buckets of water from that fine spring. Dr. Steel was my father's good friend. Mr. Webster was postmaster there at that time. We went to school there and attended the church that was mentioned recently in FLASHBACK. I can recall so many of the names that were mentioned. But one that I recall so well was Mr. Mount, who was later killed at Fayetteville on the same night that Mr. Patton was killed.

My father kept us there with this dear old lady for four months, and in February Mrs. Agnew died, leaving us without a mother a second time, so father moved us back to the farm and a Reverend McCurdy and wife cared for us until my father married again. He married Miss Caroline T. Mitchell. There were six children born to this union. My father later moved to Texas. He lived to be 75 years old and is buried in Fannin County, Texas.

I am the only child living of his first marriage. Three daughters by his second marriage are still living. Some of my father's neighbors and land owners in Washington County were Mr. George Barnett, Mr. Jack, Mr. George Sparks, two Mr. Weirs, Mr. Hanshaw, Mr. Nail, Mr. Rogers and many others -- all fine men.

Back to Mrs. Agnew -- she was one of the fine old settlers and is buried in Elm Springs cemetery. The Mr. Mount mentioned above lived in Elm Springs before moving to Fayetteville. He had a fine wife and three children -- the oldest a boy named Edgar, next a daughter Emma, and a small boy. Emma and I played together every day as very small children in Elm Springs. Later they moved to Fayetteville. After her father was killed, Mrs. Mount and the three children came back to our neighborhood and lived near her brother, Mr. George Barnett. Then I attended school again with Emma Mount. I was 11 years old then, and I remember Mr. Mount's death clearly.

As you have published in FLASHBACK, my father gave a portion of the land that now constitutes Evergreen Cemetery in Fayetteville. The following members of his family are buried in Evergreen:

My mother, Harriet E. (Wilson) Thomas, born Sept. 3, 1833; died Oct. 22, 1876. And her children:

William Leaford Thomas, born March 17, 1851; died July 30, 1852.

Albert Lafe Thomas, who was accidentally shot by my father's best friend, George Sparks, and instantly killed. He was born Sept. 3, 1857; died April 5, 1871.

Washington Lafayette Thomas, born Nov. 23, 1861; died Oct. 2, 1875.

Lucy Catharine Thomas, born April 1, 1864; died Aug. 8, 1864.

Drysdale Eugene Thomas, born Sept. 8, 1867; died Sept. 30, 1875.

Editor's Note

Mrs. Wager, who wrote the foregoing article about her father, John Thomas, and her grandfather, Washington Wilson, now lives in Dallas, Texas. She is in her 80's and making a slow recovery from an illness suffered a year ago. Her memory is excellent and she has several times replied to our requests for information. Just recently we wrote her for the name of the second son of Washington Wilson buried in the Confederate Cemetery on East Mountain. She replied:

"I am unable to give you the name of the second boy buried in the Confederate burial ground. I am positive there were two, for when I was eleven years old, Aunt Sarah came down for a golden wedding celebration, I think of a brother of her husband, Uncle Henry Rieff. Her daughter Ethel, 12 years old at that time, was with her. My father and I met them in Fayetteville and expected to take them out home with us, but she said, 'No, not today; I must stay here tomorrow and decorate my brothers' graves.' That was Decoration Day, and they discussed the loss of the two lads in war, as both died in their early teens."

Mrs. Wager read the issue of FLASHBACK containing the account of our pilgrimage to Elm Springs, and wrote:

"I wish I could have accompanied you people on your journey to Elm Springs. I can recall so many of the names you mentioned. I would like to ask Rev. William Sherman if he knew a man by the name of Boyd English. I remember him so well. He was a cripple, his legs never having developed after babyhood while the upper part of his body grew to nearly normal size. All the boys would pull his little wagon. He repaired shoes.

"I never saw Rev. James Walden, though I knew well many of his co-workers and was intimate friend of at least two of the couples he married."

1864 Letter from Fayetteville

When F. P. Rose of Rogers, member of the WCHS, visited the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul last summer, he discovered some letters written in Fayetteville in 1864. These were in the "Houlton Files" in the Document Department of the Minnesota society. The Houlton to whom the letters were written was later stationed in Fayetteville and Fort Smith with the Commissary Department of the Union army. Following is a part of one of the letters:

Office, Commissary of Subsistence,
Fayetteville, Ark., Aug. 19th, 1864

My dear friend Willie (Houlton):

Yours of the 7th June reached me a few days since, having followed sluggishly in my wake, via Milwaukee, Little Rock, and Fort Smith; and finally got such a headway that it didn't stop when it reached here, but went on to Cassville, Mo., and took a month to turn around.

I am located very pleasantly in one of the finest climates I have ever visited. Have not suffered from heat as much as in Dakota -- lovely nights and mornings. As I have surfeited myself with vegetables, fruits, etc., I have often thought of the dry season in Dakota and wished I could send a dinner to some of my friends out there. We are now having apples, cider, lucious watermelons in abundance.

Bushwhackers are quite lively and a skirmish with them is reported every few days. We captured 27 good horses in one this week, also a lot of beef cattle. Killed four rebs, wounded several others, and had only two men wounded. There has been some excitement at Fort Smith and Little Rock, but it is quite doubtful if the rebs attempt anything offensive in this section. Should an expedition be organized for Texas this fall or winter, I may go, and if successful, a good number of Colored regiments could be organized, and should I see a chance to get you in as a Reg. Q. M. I shall do so. Everything though is quite uncertain. My sister Lizzie arrived here this week on a visit.

Truly your friend - M.S.Crowell

Old Settlers Picnic at Prairie Grove

(Editor's Note: A friend wrote us that an account of a typical Prairie Grove reunion could be found in the Fayetteville Democrat of July 1883. Since the early Democrat files are not available in Fayetteville, we wrote to the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock. Mrs. Margaret Ross, the Commission's research worker, very kindly read the accounts in the 1883 issues of the Democrat and sent us the following digest of the story that appeared July 5, 1883. WJL)

OLD SETTLERS PICNIC

The Old Settlers Picnic was July 4, 1883, at Prairie Grove....Large crowd.....Col.J.P.Neal was chairman and in charge of the program which started promptly at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock...Prof.Dolgaruki's choir sang...Bentonville band played...Elder John Mayes, prayer...Address by Colonel Neal. Old settlers were arranged on the front seats, commencing with those who were here before 1830...Col.J.H.VanHoose made a speech about the history of Washington County.....Letter read from Col. J. Holcomb, regretting his inability to attend...Speech by Col.Ben T. DuVal of Ft. Smith..Then the meeting adjourned because the dinner hour had arrived. ...After the meal, there was a speech by Gen. G.D.Royston of Washington, Ark...Hon.Hugh F. Thomason of VanBuren spoke for a few minutes... Then Uncle Joe Lewis was called upon to speak.....His talk, impromptu, was mostly his own reminiscences.....Relics on exhibit included the books from General Royston's library in 1828, published in 1809, and greatly enjoyed by the old lawyers present...Capt. Sam Marrs displayed a knife that had been in his family 57 years...Among old relics of interest to the women was a calico dress made and worn by Miss Fannie Baker in 1833, cut in Mother Hubbard style and looking very much like the dresses now coming into style.

Major M.R.Hanger was chief marshal....There were several "merry-go-rounds", "Jenny Linds", or other kinds of "fuzzy-guzzy" nuisances on the grounds, and the writer very much objected to the disturbance they created during the program...Also to the noise from the lemonade stand which interfered with the program, made it hard to hear the speakers.. Ben Stone and the Junior of the Democrat were on the stage during the adjournment for dinner, and two of the young ladies made a cute remark about their being two of the relics on display...There was not a single drunken man in the crowd.....One man started to take a "swig of pizen" and got his bottle taken away from him and busted...Not a single accident marred the pleasure of the day...Every bus, carriage, vehicle and horse in Fayetteville was called upon to convey people to the picnic.. The writer expounded at great length on the hospitality of the people of Prairie Grove.

The Democrat got 30 new subscribers at the picnic, and also received orders for upwards of 200 extra copies of this week's edition....Mr. Robert J. Brown of the Little Rock Gazette was there to cover the event for his paper, and will stay a day or two in our city to write up the country....Brother Corley, of the Sentinel, had a branch office on the grounds, with the Democrat headquarters in the center of the grandstand.

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In the Fayetteville Democrat of the following week (July 12, 1883, page 1) appeared the texts of the following addresses made at the picnic: Col.J.H.VanHoose's speech on the history of Washington County; Hon. Ben T. DuVal's speech; Gen. G.D.Royston's speech.

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Old Settlers Present at the Picnic, July 5, 1883

Our reporter was enabled to procure the names of the following old settlers present, their ages and the year in which they came to the county:

(Editor's Note: Some of the dates in the following list are obviously wrong, so we have challenged them with a question mark, thus (?). For example, if Wm. Mitchell was 49 in 1883, he could not have come to the county in 1832. And any arrival date before 1826 is suspect; 1817 and 1820 are probably typographical errors. This explanation is made in the interest of historical accuracy. WJL.)

W. Drake, aged 65 years, came to the county in 1829
Jack Simpson, aged 65, came to the county in 1829
T. B. Marrs, aged 72, came to the county in 1817 (?)
James Young, aged 62, came to the county in 1828 (?)
Arthur Crawford, aged 77, came to the county in 1824 (?)
Benj. Strickler, aged 73, came to the county in 1830
T. C. Crawford, aged 66, came to the county in 1828
Wm. Wilbanks, aged 70, came to the county in 1831
M. Jones, aged 78, came to the county in 1835
A. B. Reed, aged 55, came to the county in 1830
Jas. McCulloch, aged 64, came to the county in 1839
J. D. Thompson, aged 61, came to the county in 1820 (?)
George Morrow, aged 82, came to the county in 1826
W. P. Barclay, aged 63, came to the county in 1830
T. J. Kelly, aged 67, came to the county in 1828
J. R. Pyeatt, aged 78, came to the county in 1827
Elisha Dyer, aged 83, came to the county in 1830
A. Taylor, aged 60, came to the county in 1829
David Carter, aged 76, came to the county in 1835
Wesley Marrs, aged 53, came to the county in 1830
A. Marrs, aged 52, came to the county in 1832
John Spencer, aged 80, came to the county in 1836
W. K. Scott, aged 46, came to the county in 1837
W. D. Polson, aged 52, came to the county in 1836
Bent. Wheeler, aged 56, came to the county in 1833
Whiting Washington, aged 59, came to the county in 1836
Bayless Rutherford, aged 48, came to the county in 1830
Jas. Morton, aged 52, came to the county in 1831
Jno. Johnson, aged 72, came to the county in 1838
Jas. Woodruff, aged 48, came to the county in 1835
Dr. T. J. Pollard, aged 78, came to the county in 1839
L. Dyer, aged 56, came to the county in 1834
Jesse Blakemore, aged 56, came to the county in 1831
J. G. Reed, aged 50, came to the county in 1833
J. L. Harrison, aged 71, came to the county in 1834
J. W. Scott, aged 51, came to the county in 1834
Step. Crawford, aged 48, came to the county in 1835
L. E. Hardesty, aged 75, came to the county in 1838
J. M. Sawyer, aged 76, came to the county in 1833
J. M. Chandler, aged 50, came to the county in 1833
G. W. McClure, aged 54, came to the county in 1835
W. W. Leach, aged 44, came to the county in 1838

Zeb Edmonson, aged 53, came to the county in 1830
Frank Edmonson, aged 85, came to the county in 1839
J. M. Bell, aged 54, came to the county in 1829
R. Putman, aged 52, came to the county in 1836
D. B. Mason, aged 63, came to the county in 1840
S. K. Stone, aged 63, came to the county in 1840
Richard Bean, aged 46, was born in the county
John Moore, aged 58, came to the county in 1835
A. S. Gregg, aged 56, came to the county in 1835
Bob Parks, aged 58, born here (?)
Wm. Mitchell, aged 49, came to the county in 1832 (?)
John Pyeatt, aged 45, came to the county in 1837 (?)
T. W. Thomason, aged 49, came to the county in 18--
Jack Thomason, aged 55, came to the county in 1829
J. P. Carnahan, aged 54, came to the county in 1834
C. W. Walker, aged 48, a native of the county
Col. J. P. Neal, aged 63, came to the county in 1829
Moses Dutton, aged 68, came to the county in 1836
Wm. Rutherford, aged 59, came to the county in 1832
Mrs. A. Taylor, aged 61, came to the county in 1829
Mrs. E. I. Moore, aged 63, came to the county in 1829
Elizabeth Cox, aged 75, came to the county in 1839
Mrs. D. S. Goddard, aged 62, came to the county in 1828
Nancy Sharp, aged 72, came to the county in 1828
Lizzie Tollett, aged 88, came to the county in 1829
Mrs. H. E. West, aged 56, came to the county in 1820 (?)
Elizabeth Parks, aged 86, came to the county in 1830
Sarah Arrington, aged 67, came to the county in 1827 (?)
Mrs. P. Combs, aged 58, came to the county in 1828
Mariah Morrow, aged 68, came to the county in 1828
Mrs. J. White, aged 62, came to the county in 1828
Mrs. T. A. Watson, aged 49, came to the county in 1842
Mary J. Thomason, aged 79, came to the county in 1829
Vincy Marrs, aged 87, came to the county in 1832
Mary Marrs, aged 56, came to the county in 1832
Nancy Crawford, aged 55, came to the county in 1829
Mrs. L. Wheeler, aged 80, came to the county in 1830
Mrs. Morrison, aged 50, came to the county in 1829
Mrs. Polston, aged 75, came to the county in 1836
Mrs. Earle, aged 49, came to the county in 1834
Mrs. Morton, aged 50, came to the county in 1833
Mrs. R. M. Harrison, aged 69, came to the county in 1834
Besy Pyeatt, aged 62, came to the county in 1821 (?)
Sarah McClellan, aged 60, came to the county in 1833
Harriet Brown, aged 42, came to the county in 1841
Mary C. Rutherford, aged 48, came to the county in 1835
Mrs. N. E. Kidd, aged 50, came to the county in 1834
Elizabeth Sharp, aged 60, came to the county in 1830
Mary Crawford, aged 55, came to the county in 1828

Benjamin Strickler was postmaster at Greenville (later Strickler) when war broke out in 1861. His last report to the U.S. Post Office Department was made on March 31. His next report (June 30) was on the official US PO blank but he struck out "United States" and substituted "Confederate States of America." He had \$5.19 worth of US stamps on hand but did not receive any Confederate postage stamps, so all postage was paid in cash. The WCHS has his war-time reports.

Locating the Extension of the Felker Railway
from Tontitown into Fayetteville

by Ben Shreve

This railroad was built in 1913 by the Felker people, who had a bank and other business in Rogers and owned a large tract of land east of White River at Monte Ne. What I had to do was to pick up the line at Tontitown and extend it on south into Fayetteville.

It was a simple matter to follow the drainage for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south, which brought us to the Neal place and the Clear Creek bottom, with the creek flowing west. Here it was necessary to turn right and go 120 feet west of the house. The bottom was about one-quarter wide, and it was three-fourths of a mile to the bridge crossing.

It might be well to explain that every curve was run in, with an easement of 60 feet, which was jogged to 90 feet on finished grade. The bridge was set on piling, driven to solid rock, and its direction was north and south. After crossing the bridge we passed about 100 feet of Porter's house. He still lives there.

By joining a suitable curve, the road was then headed east, with an upgrade to cross the summit, which was $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the bridge. After crossing the summit we eased south with a long curve and came to the next creek crossing at Mt. Comfort, it being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the summit. The creek was a small branch running west. There was a house on the east and one on the west side that controlled the crossing, giving to each one the same clearance.

Then continuing southward with a slight upgrade brought us to the crossing of Highway 16 in about one mile. 150 feet east was Frank Dowell's residence. He is still living at the same place. Continuing our southern course, we went through the gap in the mountain, and at a point near Barnes' home place, we swung southeast and headed for the crossing of the Farmington road.

We had made arrangements for the railroad to occupy the present road and the new road was to parallel it on the left. That arrangement did not suit everybody, so we faced an injunction to prevent our moving the road. The judge gave us one week to get ready for trial. I set stakes to show exactly what we wanted. We presented our case when it came up. The judge went out to see what it looked like. After sizing it up, he said, "Go ahead as you have planned it."

So we shifted the place of the road from the corner at the Fair Ground to the Frisco Railway trestle. It ran the entire length of the Phipps Lumber Co. plant. Going under the trestle was easy, because it was not filled. Holding a southeast course until we were one block from Highway 62, and then running due east until stopped by Highway 71. There was plenty of room to build a "wye" and make other improvements.

In 1913 there were three branch railroads running into Fayetteville: the Frisco east to St. Paul, the Frisco west to Muskogee, and the Felker lines to Siloam, Rogers and Monte Ne. Today all are gone, because trucking proved cheapest for a short haul.

Cemetery Hill, Walnut Grove

One of Washington County's old cemeteries is a beautiful little graveyard hidden away on what is locally known as Cemetery Hill, in the Walnut Grove community about two miles south of Farmington. This cemetery is built around three pioneer families -- the Tolletts, Mortons and Hamblens, all of whom settled in this fertile valley soon after the Cherokee Treaty and the creation of Washington County.

Head of the Hamblen clan was William Thomas Hamblen (1802-1863) whose tombstone relates that he was "killed by Federals in the Civil War." ** There are memorial stones to his wife, Eliza Maclin Hamblen (1821-1870) and their son Jim (1845-1871). Also on the Hamblen family lot are A. J. "Jack" Hamblen (1853-1917) and his wife, Temperance Laura Hamblen (1856-1949). Temperance Hamblen, who reached the age of 93, was the granddaughter of two "first-comers" to Washington County: Henry Tollett and the Rev. Jacob Sexton.

Although the Tolletts are buried on their own family plot, the genealogy of the Tollett and Morton families is beautifully and permanently preserved on a bronze plaque that ornaments the handsome Morton monument. Here are the pioneers, as given on the bronze plaque:

William Morton 1804-1880	Henry Tollett 1793-1871
and wife	and wife
Rachel Crawford Morton 1803-1877	Eliza Brown Tollett 1795-1885
James A. Morton 1831 - 1885	William J. Tollett 1819 - 1891
Nancy J. Morton 1831 - 1921	Rowland C. Tollett 1821 - 1912
John M. Morton 1833 - 1905	Margaret J. Tollett 1825 - 1901
Martha E. Morton 1838 - 1912	Ferdinand G. Tollett 1828 - 1871
William T. Morton 1841 - 1904	Harriet L. Tollett 1833 - 1905
James A. Morton 1831-1885	and wife Harriet L. Tollett 1833-1905

Erected in loving memory by W. H. and R. M. Morton, 1921

James, the oldest son of William Morton, married Harriet, the youngest child of Henry Tollett, thus uniting these two pioneer families. James and Harriet became the parents of W.H. and R.M. Morton, who erected this handsome monument in 1921. Both of them now rest there among their kinsmen. W.H. Morton was born in 1861 and died in 1934. Beside him lies his wife Bettie (1863-1939). R.M. Morton was born in 1866 and died in 1945. It is difficult to conceive of a finer tribute than the one these brothers erected to the memory of their parents and grandparents. The pioneer Tolletts and Mortons will not be forgotten as long as this bronze endures.

Although the Tolletts are memorialized on the Morton monument, each Tollett grave has its own gravestone of the quaint design of the 70's and 80's.

Other old settlers buried in the Walnut Grove graveyard include:

Joseph Lewis (1802-1885) and his wife Mary (1809-1875)

Leven Williams (1807-1882) and his wife Sallie (1800-1883)

Julia A. Atwell (1814-1893)

Rev. H. L. M. Barrington (1817-1846) and his wife Margaret J. (1825-1901)

Eld. H. B. B orders (1826-1906) and his wife Mary H. (1836-1898)
George Spradlin (1838-1915) and his wife Martha J. (1841-1912)
Nancy Ann Poplin (1839-1892)
Rebecca, wife of Joseph Vaughn (1832-1893)
Francis M. Dill (1840-1915) and his wife Louisa F. (1844-1929)
Eliza Ellen Easley (1843-1900)
J. W. Meteer (1846-1933) and his wife Emma (1852-1922)
Lucy A., wife of J. C. Lewis (1855-1895)
I. T. Nolen (1856-1945) and his wife Harriett E. (1859-1929)
Eba G. Ockley (1865-1941) and his wife Nina Z. (1866-1937)
James A. Nelson (1858-1941) and his wife Mary A. (1861-1949)
John B. Burdges (1878-1928) and his wife Maggie Grace (1872-1916)

Later comers to the Walnut Grove community whose family names are represented in this historic graveyard are the following: Bayles, Couch, Evins, Garrett, Hammontree, Johnston, Nelson, Sartin, Shore, Shumate, Slaten. The cemetery, which is beautifully kept up, contains some 75 field-stone markers, most of them probably burials of the 40's and 50's, although a small group may be slave burials.

** The account of William Hamblen's death is as follows. He was an old man and sick in bed when the Federals came and forced him to go to Fayetteville and "prove himself." He stopped at Wm. H. Engle's enroute to town and went on his way. He was murdered just east of Tom Holland's and John Holland's farm. The only vehicle in the country was Wilson Shreve's ox cart, as all the horses were in the services of the army. Virginia Shreve and her sister Carmania were at the Wyatt Woodruff home (a log house northeast of present Clyde Holland farm on the north side of Farmington Road) getting some peaches. They unloaded the fruit and Mrs. Woodruff gave them a quilt and they hauled Mr. Hamblen home where he was buried on a knoll near the house.

Carmania Shreve later married Frank Mayes and was the mother of Mrs. Ivan Guisinger, Fred Mayes, John Mayes, Cora Ahrens. Virginia Shreve married John Kinnibrugh, a brother of Isabella Kinnibrugh Engles, wife of Wm. H. Engles and sister of Wm. F. Shreve, father of Henry Benson Shreve and Walter Shreve of near Fayetteville.

Mrs. Foreman Writes About the Bean Family

The Autumn 1954 issue of the Chronicles of Oklahoma (Oklahoma Historical Society) contains an article on "The Bean Family" that should be of special interest to WCHS members. Author of the article is Mrs. Carolyn Thomas Foreman of Muskogee. Much of Mrs. Foreman's information comes from the Cherokee file in the Office of Indian Affairs. For example, the demand of the Cane Hill Regulators (Mark Bean, Captain Commanding) on Chief John Ross for the surrender of John Nicholson as one of the murderers of the Wright family. Also, the petition of the Bean brothers for reimbursement for their salt works which they gave up under the Cherokee Treaty of 1828. Among the witnesses who testified that the Beans' salt works were worth \$15,000 was William McGarrah. He testified that he had been a neighbor of the Beans when they were operating the salt works. This places McGarrah in the Indian country (near present-day Gore, Oklahoma) about 1822.

Add 1852 Marriages:

July 8 - Wm. E. Vines & Pheba Jane Rizley, by Rev. S. W. Blackburn
 Oct. 30- Francis M. Smiley & Sarah Ann Reed, by Rev. John Holcomb

1853

Jan. 6 - N. S. Walker & N. Caroline Evans, by Rev. George Morrow
 Jan. 12 - John Farmer Brown & Betsy Ann Little, by Thos. McKnight, JP
 Jan. 13 - David _____ & Elizabeth C. Brown, by Thos. McKnight, JP
 Jan. 13 - Bollen Smith & Elizabeth Thurman, by Rev. Benj. J. Carnahan
 Jan. 20 - Peter P. VanHoose & Annis Adeline Gregg, by Wm. Trogdon, JP
 Jan. 20 - Philip D. Sutton & Tennessee Sutphin, by Rev. Young Ewing
 Feb. 3 - John Lewis & Sarah Wood, by Rev. Luther M. Bell
 Feb. 6 - John Remy & Charity Hutchens, by John Robinson, JP
 Feb. 8 - Charles Parker & Ana Martha Ellis, by S. H. Kelly, JP
 Feb. 8 - Wm. H. Coldwell & Ruth A. Fine, by Rev. Andrew Buchanan
 Feb. 8 - Aaron S. Taylor & Sary Ann Edmiston, by Rev. John Barnes
 Feb. 10 - Fields Trammel & Lucinda Williford, by Rev. James Mayfield
 Feb. 10 - James H. Cooper & Mahaly Ann _____, by Wm. W. Brownlee, JP
 Feb. 10 - Samuel Cox & Pamela Ingram, by Rev. Robert D. Gray
 Feb. 13 - Preston Chandler & Barsheba Ann Bartlett, by Rev. J. G. Walker
 Feb. 17 - Thomas T. Pierce & _____ Amanda Crofford, by H. Powell
 Feb. 17 - J. R. Burrow & Methena E. McCamish, by M. W. McClellan, JP
 Feb. 19 - G. W. Adair & Mary Jane Hanna, by Rev. M. B. Harris
 Feb. 20 - Robert Snodgrass & Alpha _____, by Rev. M. W. Thornsburry
 Feb. 23 - Warren W. Garret & Malissa S. Gray, by Rev. M. B. Harris
 Feb. 23 - William Phelan & Matilda Barns, by Rev. Thomas Brinson
 Mar. 3 - Josiah R. Phelan & Eliza Ann Kinderick, by Calvin Baker, JP
 Mar. 6 - Benjamin Pope & Anne Eddleman, by Joseph P. Stout, JP
 Mar. 10 - A. G. Reader & N. E. West, by Rev. Martin W. Thornsburry
 Mar. 10 - James Bledsoe & Elizabeth Mhoon, by Robert McCamy, JP
 Mar. 19 - John W. Fellows & Louisa Combs, by Telman D. Wisenor, JP
 Mar. 20 - Joel S. Dyer & Laura C. Townsley, by Dedmond Mallicoat, JP
 Mar. 22 - O. D. Tankersly & Sarah E. Harrison, by Rev. Young Ewing
 Mar. 24 - Samuel Sumner & Mary Jane Pherel (?), by Calvin Baker, JP
 Apr. 3 - Felix McCurly & Chariety Blackburn, by James Ritter, JP
 Apr. 17 - Granville Buckhanan & Mary Jane Butt, by Dedmond Mallicoat, JP
 Apr. 21 - Benjamin Dill & Charlotte Story, by Asa Ellis, JP
 Apr. 21 - Thomas A. Hinson & Louisa M. Kennan, by Rev. T. B. VanHorne
 Apr. 24 - James S. Rodgers & Rebecca Brewster, by Asa Ellis, JP
 May 6 - Jesse Wiley & Mary McCullet (?), by W. W. Brownlee, JP
 May 8 - George W. Mackey & Charlotte Vance, by Asa Ellis, JP
 May 11 - Shelton Hern & Polly Ann Dill, by Dedmond Mallicoat, JP
 May 12 - Edmond Hodges & Mary Ann Cooksey, by Asa Ellis, JP
 May 14 - Burel Clanton & Martha J. Parker, by Asa Ellis, JP
 May 15 - Jacob Armstrong & Nancy A. Eddleman, by Jonathan Newman, JP
 May 19 - Lewis Arnot & Louiza Henson, by Jonathan Stout, JP
 May 30 - Charles Pense & Anna Brewer, by Thomas McKnight, JP
 May 30 - Jasper Adkins & Susan J. Schrimsher, by Robert McCamy, JP
 June 9 - Micha Willsy & Rebecca S. Graham, by Calvin Baker, JP
 June 10 - Larkin Tankersly & Ophelia Brotherton, by Rev. M. R. Harris
 June 15 - Thomas J. Cabe & Margaret Perco, by Wm. W. Brownlee, JP
 June 16 - Henry C. Hern & Stanley Carral, by Dedmond Mallicoat, JP
 July 5 - Wm. N. Carlile & Nancy Bates, by Rev. Jordan Banks
 July 7 - John McDonough & Nancy Housewright, by Rev. C. H. Boatright
 July 17 - Timothy Lydston & Martha J. Tucker, by Rev. Young Ewing
 July 21 - George Sparks & Elizabeth Litteral, by Rev. Benj. M. Routh
 July 27 - Pinckney Graham & Lucy Jane Walker, by John Reed, JP
 July 27 - James P. Pyeatt & Mahala Neal, by Rev. G. Pylant

July 28 - Wm. D. Hodge & Mary Pyeatt, by Rev. G. Pylant
 July 30 - Joseph S. Watson & Elizabeth Barnes, by P. P. VanHoose, JP
 Aug. 2 - Harris Gilly & Mary Looper, by James Duncan, JP
 Aug. 9 - William D. Bingham & Mahaly Newman, by James Ritter, JP
 Aug. 11 - William S. Dever & Sarah E. Person, by Rev. Young Ewing
 Aug. 11 - Thomas B. McKee & Elizabeth C. Rodgers, by M. W. McClellan, JP
 Aug. 18 - Isaac Long & C.M.E. Daniels, by Jonathan Stout, JP
 Aug. 20 - John Johnson & Cary Quillen, by Rev. James Mayfield
 Aug. 18 - William Looper & Harriet James, by James Ritter, JP
 Aug. 25 - James B. Sinclair & Nancy E. Mills, by Rev. Thomas M. Brinson
 Aug. 18 - John W. Walker & Mary E. Burgess, by James Duncan, JP
 Aug. 28 - Edward Elms & Lydia Newman, by J. D. Odle, JP
 Sept 4 - Asa K. Chandler & Sarah A. Sh _____, by Rev. Thomas M. Brinson
 Sept 4 - Zadoch Winn & Mary Ann Caughman, by Thomas McKnight, JP
 Sept 4 - Jefferson Quinton & Cynthia Yoes, by Thomas McKnight, JP
 Sept 4 - John L. Latta & Euneta Chandler, by Rev. Samuel Robins
 Sept 6 - William H. Sexton & Jane Walker, by Rev. Thomas Leach
 Sept 8 - John Mankins & Elizabeth Evans, by Jonathan Stout, JP
 Sept 11 - Isaac Harrison & Sarah Ann Peerson, by Rev. Thomas M. Brinson
 Sept. 13 - Horace H. Fellows & Mary Ann Chapman, by Jones Peerson, JP
 Sept 22 - David F. Hope & Louisa Johnson, by Dedmond Mallicoat, JP
 Sept 29 - William Rutherford & Nancy M. Ferguson, by Rev. Wm. McMillan
 Oct. 2 - James Harris & Margaret Wolters, by John Reed, JP
 Oct. 3 - Jacob Funkhouser & Eliza Tilly, by Rev. John Burris
 Oct. 4 - William Land & Martha Jane Ferguson, by Jonathan Stout, JP
 Oct. 6 - Hugh A. Paul & Dorothy Peerson, by Jones Peerson, JP
 Oct. 6 - James Davis & Darah Ann Joyce, by Rev. Calvin Evans
 Oct. 9 - O. C. Cate & Mary Miller, by Jones Peerson, JP
 Oct. 13 - Benjamin Gilstrap & Leodicea J. Hutchens, by John Robinson, JP
 Oct. 13 - D. K. Holt & Susan Tilly, by J. D. Odle, JP
 Oct. 15 - Riley Graham & Elizabeth J. Willson, by Rev. Wm. McMillan
 Oct. 19 - J. C. Hannah & Sarah E. King, by Rev. Wm. McMillan
 Oct. 20 - Wm. D. Oxford & Armina Smith, by Rev. Benj. M. Routh
 Oct. 20 - John Wilson & Emily Mays, by Jonas Peerson, JP
 Oct. 23 - David H. Karnes & Rachel Strickland, by Jones Peerson, JP
 Oct. 23 - George Crouch & Margaret Faught (Cherokee Nation), by J.P. Stout, JP
 Oct. 26 - James B. Williams & Eliza Ann Perry, by Robert McCamy, JP
 Oct. 27 - Levi Phillips & Susan Clark, by Rev. Thomas Dodson
 Oct. 30 - John Olinger & Mary Jane Hail, by Calvin Baker, JP
 Nov. 1 - George M. Sanders & Mary Ann Carnahan, by Rev. Benj. M. Routh
 Nov. 1 - Rev. David Hyams & Nancy E. Gore, by Asa Ellis, JP
 Nov. 4 - Eli Marlen & Mary J. Obrion, by J. D. Odle, JP
 Nov. 6 - Thomas G. Stone & Eliza J. Jones, by Calvin Baker, JP
 Nov. 13 - John Meek & Elizabeth Bagget, by John Reed, JP
 Nov. 13 - John Langford & Lavicy Cox, by Rev. W. A. Cobb
 Nov. 13 - Charles Murphy & Mrs. Mary F. Price, by M. W. McClellan, JP
 Nov. 17 - James Bell & Surrina Hart, by Dedmond Mallicoat, JP
 Nov. 20 - Robert Fletcher Jr. & Margaret Mhoon, by Robert McCamy, JP
 Nov. 21 - Elisha Tilly & Elizabeth Pasley, by Rev. John Barnes
 Nov. 27 - John Rainwater & Mary E. Sparks, by Wesley Shores, JP
 Nov. 27 - John Deaven & Matilda Welden, by Wm. W. Brownlee, JP
 Nov. 29 - Robert M. Hunton & Mary Cabe, by J. D. Odle, JP
 Nov. 29 - James C. Diven & Elizabeth J. Edmiston, by Rev. John Barnes
 Dec. 1 - Ambord Johnson & Jane Tod, by Calvin Baker, JP
 Dec. 1 - Francis M. Woodruff & Jemima Pyeatt, by Rev. Benj. H. Peerson
 Dec. 11 - Wm. M. Smiley & Alpha Holcombe, by John Reed, JP
 Dec. 11 - Hiram McHenry & Sarah Wassum, by J. D. Odle, JP
 Aug. 18 - Brice Hildebrand & Amy Richards, by Jonathan Newman, JP

National Cemetery Records Show 412 Known Union Dead in 1862-1865

The records of the Fayetteville National Cemetery show that 412 U.S. soldiers, who are buried here and whose names are known, died in northwest Arkansas between January 1862 and June 1865. 82 of these known dead lost their lives in the battle of Pea Ridge, March 7, 1862. 20 died in the battle of Cane Hill, Dec. 5, 1862; and 129 were killed in the battle of Prairie Grove Dec. 7, 1862. There is, of course, no way of knowing how many of the "unknown" in the National Cemetery lost their lives in these three battles.

The official records show the date of death and first place of burial for all "known" dead. Thus, three Union soldiers were buried in the Tollett orchard at Walnut Grove on Dec. 7, 1862; three at Rhea's Mill; two on "Walker's Farm" (on West Fork, just east of Fayetteville).

The known Union dead (1862-65) were from the following states. (No state designation is given for 74 other names.)

Arkansas.....	78
Iowa.....	77
Wisconsin.....	51
Kansas.....	41
Indiana.....	35
Illinois.....	33
Missouri.....	27

The 78 Arkansas men who died during the war years in northwest Arkansas were members of four different army units, but most of them (67) were members of the 1st Arkansas Cavalry USA. The 1st Cavalry, commanded by Col. M. LaRue Harrison, suffered heavy losses in the initial stages of the battle of Prairie Grove. Also, 16 members of the 1st Arkansas Cavalry died at Fayetteville in March 1863.

It is quite evident that many of the Union dead of Pea Ridge sleep in graves marked "Unknown". The National Cemetery records cite the Union loss at Pea Ridge (March 6-8, 1862) as 203 killed, 981 wounded, 201 missing. Total, 1,384. Yet only 82 "known" dead of Pea Ridge are listed on the local cemetery records.

The records also contain a report from the War Department, Washington, D.C., giving the Union casualties at Prairie Grove, Dec. 7, 1862. The losses of only four commands (the record says "Other commands unknown") are given thus:

	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
20th Wisconsin (Herron's Div.).....	50	154	13	217
19th Iowa (Herron's Div.).....	45	145	30	220
26th Indiana (Huston's Div.).....	25	175	1	201
10th Kansas (Blunt's Div.).....	4	65	0	69

Since there are only 51 "known" Wisconsin dead in the National Cemetery out of a total casualty list for that state of 217, it is evident that many Wisconsin soldiers sleep in graves marked "Unknown". The same would be true of the Iowa, Indiana and Kansas regiments.

Other interesting facts can be ascertained from the National Cemetery's records. The two first "known" deaths of Union soldiers were on Jan. 18, 1862, when John A. Bishop and Thomas J. McDonald, both of the 37th Illinois Infantry, were interred at Cassville, Mo., and then removed to Fayetteville.

Report of Dinsmore Memorial Fund Committee

The Dinsmore Memorial Fund committee reports a total of \$153 contributed by Society members and friends for the purpose of erecting a memorial marker on the grave of Hugh A. Dinsmore in Fayetteville's Evergreen Cemetery. The committee (Mrs. L. S. Read, F. S. Root, O. E. Williams) has reported the following contributors to the Fund:

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Bunch	Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Kik
Robert R. Logan	Mrs. Myrtle M. Stafford
Miss Jobelle Holcombe	Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Searcy
Miss Mary Droke	Mr. and Mrs. Hayden McIlroy
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Feathers	Dr. and Mrs. Max McAllister
Mrs. Lessie S. Read	Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Sonneman
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lemke	Samuel A. Mitchell
Hon. J. W. Trimble	Dr. Will H. Mock
Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Wade	Mrs. Roy W. Williams
Northwest Arkansas Times	G. W. Humphreys
Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Atkinson	Mrs. W. W. Dutton
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Seamster	Mr. and Mrs. Jerome McRoy
Miss Suzanne Lighton	Mr. and Mrs. John McNair
Mrs. A. C. Ucker	Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nix
F. S. Root	Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Campbell
Dr. E. F. Ellis	F. P. Rose
W. P. McNair	T. H. Thomason
H. L. Pearson	Mr. and Mrs. John Goodall
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Greenhaw	Miss Rachel Oliver
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Greer	Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Dorman
Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bates	Conrow R. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lewis	Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Price Dickson	Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Hale
Mr. and Mrs. A. D. McAllister Sr.	Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Rhodes
Judge Bill Bush	Mrs. Mertye McIlroy Bagby
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Kennan	Mrs. I. R. Hill
H. W. Phillips	Mr. and Mrs. U. A. Lovell
Elza Davies	A. J. Black
Mr. and Mrs. Don Foley	Clinehens Bros.
Herbert Lewis Sr.	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Greathouse
Rev. William Sherman	H. H. Strauss
Misses Nelle, Willie and Mr. Fred Kammz	Mr. and Mrs. Guy B. Massey
Mr. and Mrs. Don Trumbo	Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Wiggans
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rothrock	Miss Eva Atwood
Mrs. J. A. Rackerby	Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Boles
Mr. and Mrs. F. M. McConnell	Mrs. J. F. Deaver
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pettigrew	Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hodges
Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Teter	Miss Elizabeth Ellis
Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Davis	J. H. Atkinson
Mrs. Morgan McMichael	Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wing
Dr. and Mrs. Fount Richardson	Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bates
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Watson	Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Orville J. Hall	Mr. and Mrs. Maupin Cummings
Miss Ida Gregg	Irving Kitts
Drs. Ruth and Vincent Lesh	

The design for the Dinsmore monument has been approved by the Society and the monument is now being engraved by W. J. B. Work of Springdale. Date of its erection and dedication will be announced soon.

Reading Report

by W. J. Lemke

1. "FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND 91 DAYS in the Confederate Army -- a Journal kept by W. W. Heartsill, of Camp Life; Day by Day, of the W. P. Lane Rangers."

This is a reprint (facsimile) of a Civil War classic originally published by the author in 1876. It took him a year and a half to print 100 copies on a crude hand press, one page at a time. Only 13 copies of the original edition are known to be in existence.

The handsome 1954 reprint edition, edited by Bell Irvin Wiley, is published by the McCowat-Mercer Press of Jackson, Tenn.

"Fourteen Hundred and 91 Days" contains some action that will interest Arkansas historians. For example, there is mention of the 19th, 23rd and 24th Arkansas regiments in the eye-witness account of the battle of Arkansas Post. Again - in 1863 Heartsill and three companions "deserted" Bragg, whom they detested, and rejoined their unit in Texas. The account of the quartet's crossing of the Mississippi River and trek across Arkansas is fascinating reading.

The reprint edition contains reproductions of the 61 original photos that appeared in Heartsill's 1876 edition. The book sells for \$6.

2. "THE CIVIL WAR'S BOHEMIAN BRIGADE" ("newsmen in action"), by Louis M. Starr. Published by Knopf, 1954. \$5.

In his opening paragraph the author says: "Like many of those happy people for whom the multiple attractions of the Civil War are practically irresistible, I have often wondered how much the American people knew about it while it was being fought."

The answer, as revealed by Starr's book, is that the American people knew plenty about the war -- thanks to the Bohemian Brigade, the pioneer war correspondents.

As usual when I read a new Civil War book, I turned to the index for any mention of Arkansas. There was none. However, under "P" I found Pea Ridge. And this is what I read on page 247:

"Bohemians reported entire battles they had neither seen nor heard about from witnesses, a feat notably performed by Junius Browne of the (N.Y.) Tribune, on his own admission, when he heard rumors of the Battle of Pea Ridge. It was impossible for him to reach the field in time, and, knowing that the Herald would score otherwise, Browne simply concocted a dispatch, with ample references to the 'gallantry' of one officer he believed to have been present, the weather, of which he was reasonably sure, and charges to and fro amid the usual clap-bang - a masterpiece of sheer rhetoric sufficient to fill a column. A British newspaper reprinted it with the comment that it was a model of what war correspondence should be."

That's a good yarn -- and one that no Knopf author would be expected to pass up. But if Starr read the running story of the battle of Pea Ridge in the New York Herald -- and he probably did, since he is a trained historian and presently a member of Columbia University's much publicized Oral History project -- he could have quoted the Herald's dispatches from Pea Ridge, Arkansas, as among the very finest examples of Civil War reporting.

3. "CONFEDERATE AGENT", by James D. Horan. Published 1954 by Crown Publishers. \$5.

This is the little-known story of "the Northwest Conspiracy" -- particularly the story of Capt. Thomas H. Hines, as glamorous a figure as any that the Confederacy produced. The jacket blurb says that the book records "scores of almost incredible feats of personal valor." For once the blurb is right. The adventures of Hines and his companions will make the shivers run up and down your spine.

Capt. Thomas H. Hines C.S.A. was commissioned by Jefferson Davis in 1864 as the military leader of a secret mission that spent over \$2,500,000 in executing such desperate enterprises as the rescue of General John Morgan from the Ohio Penitentiary, the burning of 15 New York hotels, the raid on St. Albans, Vermont, the burning of steamers at the St. Louis wharves, and others that were successfully carried out. There were also such abortive schemes as the attempted liberation of Confederate prisoners on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie and at Camp Douglas in Chicago, the capture of the only US Navy ship on Lake Erie, the attempted kidnapping of President Andrew Johnson, the Copperhead movement to take over Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Captain Hines' first job when he returned from Canada after the war was as editor of the Memphis Daily Appeal. In 1875 he was elected Chief Justice of Kentucky's Court of Appeals and served two terms.

An attempt to publish the story of "The Northwest Conspiracy" in 1862 in The Southern Bivouac was scotched by Jefferson Davis, then living in retirement on Beauvoir Plantation, Miss. Two incomplete articles were published in 1887. Hines died in 1898. The last of the "Old Squadron" was Bennett Young who had led the St. Albans raid. As head of the Confederate Veterans Association, he dedicated the Confederate monument in Arlington Cemetery in 1914. He died in 1917.

The book is illustrated with a hundred never-before-published photographs and facsimile documents. Much of the material came from Captain Hines' own secret reports and diaries and from the US War Department's Civil War conspiracy files, which had been sealed for 90 years.

James Horan, the author of "Confederate Agent", has to his credit eight books in the field of American history. He is on the staff of the New York Journal-American.

4. "A HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY", by Clement Eaton. Published by Macmillan 1954. I've forgotten the price but it's worth it.

The publisher says, "This fascinating history shows the devastating effect of war on a human society. It depicts the military and political, as well as the economic and cultural life of the South under the influence of war." The chapter titles indicate the compact organization of the book. For example:

Chapter IV - Confederate Diplomacy

Chapter VI - Generals and Strategy

Chapter VII - Logistics of the Gray Army

Chapter XI - Society and Culture in a War Atmosphere

Chapter XII - Economic Disintegration

The two important battles in northwest Arkansas (Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove) are placed in their proper perspective. And in spite of the terrific compression (about 200 words for Pea Ridge; 180 for Prairie Grove), our two battles attain a significance that is often missed in larger and more detailed histories.

On pages 156-157: "The initial Confederate successes in the Missouri Arkansas area were nullified within a year. General VanDorn, a dashing West Pointer who had been sent by the Confederate government to take charge of military operations in Missouri, developed ambitious plans of capturing St. Louis and invading Illinois. This dream, however, was destroyed on March 7 and 8, 1862, when a Federal army under Gen. Samuel R. Curtis at Pea Ridge (or Elkhorn Tavern) in the northwest corner of Arkansas repulsed an attack by his army. VanDorn, with 16,202 men (many of them armed only with shotguns or squirrel rifles) against Curtis's 12,000, had divided his army and attempted a wide flanking movement. A similar movement by Lyon at the battle of Wilson Creek had resulted in the defeat of the Union army. Now the tables were turned. The two columns of the Confederate army were delayed by obstructions in the road and were unable to communicate with each other. One of these uncoordinated forces, under Ben McCulloch, attacked the flank of the Federals but became demoralized when he was killed. The other, commanded by VanDorn and Price, was victorious on the first day of the battle but was defeated when the Federal army concentrated against it. The battle of Pea Ridge was the final disaster in the Confederate loss of Missouri."

On page 207: "The Confederates constantly dreamed of recovering Missouri, using their positions in Arkansas as a base. In July, 1862, however, Gen. Samuel Curtis captured Helena on the Mississippi River, thus obtaining for the Union army an excellent base to invade eastern Arkansas. The Confederate commander in this region, Maj. Genl Hindman, reorganized his forces and crossed into Missouri in September, establishing temporarily an outpost at Newtonia near Springfield. Forced to withdraw, he was planning another advance into the coveted territory when Holmes, prodded by the War Department, ordered him to bring his 11,000 troops to Little Rock and proceed from there to the east bank of the Mississippi to help save Vicksburg. Hindman decided first to fight one more battle for the recovery of Missouri, and he was badly defeated on Dec. 7, 1862, at Prairie Grove near Fayetteville, Arkansas. Thus the reserve of Trans-Mississippi troops so desperately needed to defend Vicksburg was lost. After the fall of Vicksburg Maj. Genl Frederick Steele moved from Helena with approximately 14,000 men and 57 guns to capture Little Rock. The 8,000 Confederates under Sterling Price evacuated the city on Sept. 10, 1863."

In discussing the effect of the war on Southern colleges, Professor Eaton says, "Volunteering and conscription resulted in the closing of many Southern college and universities." In 1861 the University of Mississippi closed. In 1863, South Carolina, Franklin College (now the U of Georgia) and Louisiana State closed. And so on.

Eaton says, "The closing of the University of Mississippi was particularly tragic, for by 1860-61 it was making remarkable progress under the leadership of Frederick A.P. Barnard, a Northern scientist, who returned North and became president of Columbia College. Thus the South lost its ablest leader in college education."

My guess is that the author never heard of Arkansas College or Cane Hill College -- Arkansas' most important colleges in 1861. Both were closed by the war -- Cane Hill College temporarily; Arkansas College permanently. If Eaton had known of the illustrious record of Robert Graham and Arkansas College, he might have written the above-quoted passage thus:

"The closing of Arkansas College in Fayetteville was particularly tragic, for by 1860-61 it was making remarkable progress under the leadership of Robert Graham, a Kentuckian of strong Union sympathies, who returned to Kentucky and became a noted professor in the University at Lexington. Thus Arkansas lost its ablest leader in college education."

And he would have been eminently correct. The point, of course, is that all the other Confederate states were better publicized than Arkansas -- both then, and now. But it still aggravates me when historians ignore the Trans-Mississippi Department and skip over the battles in Arkansas as minor engagements. Eaton does not make that mistake.

Clement Eaton is professor of history at the University of Kentucky. He got his AB from the University of North Carolina and his PH.D. from Harvard. He was a Fulbright professor at the University of Manchester, England. He has previously published "A History of the Old South." This new book of his, "A History of the Southern Confederacy", is a superb writing job. Every review of the book that I have seen was laudatory. So I add my praise. I can't resist printing the last paragraph from Eaton's book. This is it:

"The martyrs of a fallen cause' were principally young men, representing a large proportion of the natural leaders of the South who had volunteered early from Chivalric honor and patriotism. An even greater tragedy than the death of vigorous young men (the 'seed corn' of the future) was the traumatic effect of the Civil War upon the mind and spirit of the South. Like the French Revolution, the Civil War destroyed the society of the old regime. The corrosive memory of the defeat of the Confederacy continued long in the rural South. Walter Hines Page, a North Carolinian, recognized this fact when he observed that one of the three ghosts which troubled the life of the New South was the ghost of the Confederate Dead."

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The Starr, Horton, and Eaton books may be purchased at McRoy and McNair's book store in Fayetteville. And Mrs. Foster, manager of McRoy's book department, will be more than happy to order "Fourteen Hundred and 91 Days" for you. Or you can secure it direct from the McCowat Mercer Press, Jackson, Tenn. We have at least one WCHS member on the McCowat-Mercer staff.